

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 09202730  
 PUBLICATION DATE : 05-08-97

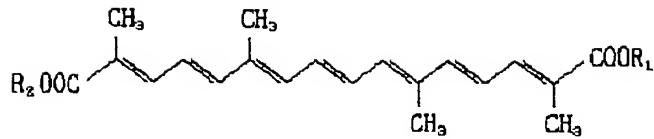
APPLICATION DATE : 24-01-96  
 APPLICATION NUMBER : 08029840

APPLICANT : NIPPON MEKTRON LTD;

INVENTOR : TANAKA HIROYUKI;

INT.CL. : A61K 31/70 C07H 13/06

TITLE : CARCINOGENESIS SUPPRESSING  
 AGENT



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a carcinogenesis suppressing agent causing little side actions by using a specific derivative of a carotenoid compound separated from natural resources such as saffron.

SOLUTION: This agent contains a crocetin disugar ester of formula ( $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each gentiobiose or glucose) as an active component. The compound of the formula can be produced e.g. by separating crocetin (8,8'-diapocarotene diacid which is a compound of the formula wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are H) from saffron, etc., and converting the crocetin into digentiobiose ester (crocin), monoglucose monogentiobiose ester or diglucose ester. This carcinogenesis suppressing agent exists in a hot-water extract of the stigma of saffron being widely used as crude drug and food and exhibits the suppressing effect at a low concentration. Crocetin digentiobiose ester is especially effective among the above crocetin disugar esters.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1997,JPO